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BA-964-----

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BA-966-----

Western Run Turnpike, Bridges
and culverts
Between Shawan Road and Butler
Road at Falls Road
Accessible to public
Ca. 1868

The Western Run Turnpike Company was chartered in 1868 to construct a toll road between Butler and the York Road Turnpike. Tollgates were set up at Butler, Western Run (q.v.) and York Road. Three bridges and culverts are known to be original (and there may be others covered by modern alterations). The Gothic arch of the bridge immediately north of the hamlet of Leesville reflects the popularity of that style during the third quarter of the 19th century. The sturdy stone construction indicates the plentiful supply of massive stone in the region. Two other bridges, or culverts, are located about half a mile south of Leesville and just west of Western Road.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

BA-964,965,966
MAC-HC 30064517
HC309654517
HC309664517

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Western Run Turnpike Bridges and Culverts

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Western Run Road

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 8

VICINITY OF Butler to Shawan Rd. at I-83

STATE

COUNTY

Baltimore

3 CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | PRESENT USE |
|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC | <input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE | PUBLIC ACQUISITION | ACCESSIBLE | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER |

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Baltimore County

Telephone #: 494-3100

STREET & NUMBER

Chesapeake Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Md. 21204

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore County Courthouse

Liber #: 504

Folio #: 344

STREET & NUMBER

Washington Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Md.

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

A stone-arched bridge spans a branch of Western Run immediately north of the hamlet of Leesville. The original bridge is about half the width of the existing structure, having been widened to the east by the addition of concrete structure. The single arch is a pointed or Gothic arch, faced with roughly-worked marble stones; adjacent stone is a grayer rubble native limestone and the walls extend a few feet above the roadbed in a parapet. Flanking the arch, the walls splay slightly outward.

A stone culvert spans another branch of Western Run about half a mile south of the Leesville bridge; it, too, has been about doubled in width but the newer construction is to the west and it is a round steel pipe, faced with rubble stone. Splaying parapet walls on either side rise above the roadbed like the Leesville bridge. In the original portion of this bridge the stream is spanned with a series of massive roughly-worked native limestone lintels laid side by side.

A stone culvert with long flanking retaining walls parallel to the roadbed spans a branch of Western Run just north of Western Road. The original portion of the culvert remains under the easterly half of Western Run Road. The branch is spanned with a series of massive roughly-worked stone lintels laid side by side.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | | |

| | | | |
|----------------|------|-------------------|---------|
| SPECIFIC DATES | 1868 | BUILDER/ARCHITECT | Unknown |
|----------------|------|-------------------|---------|

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Western Run Turnpike Company was chartered in 1868 to construct a toll road between Butler and the York Road Turnpike. This turnpike, now known as Western Run Road, was the last to be constructed in Baltimore County and its original route still carries modern traffic over a series of bridges and culverts with only minimal change in its right-of-way.

The road began in the village of Butler, ran south along the Falls Road to its intersection with Western Run Road, then proceeded eastward and southward to Shawan Road where it turned east to end at York Road Turnpike. There were toll gates at Butler, in the village of Western Run, and at York Road. The two tollhouses at Western Run are still in existence (see Ackerman and Schmitt houses).

Three bridges and culverts are known to be original (and there may be others which have been covered by modern alterations). The Gothic arch of the bridge near Leesville reflects the popularity of the Gothic Revival style in the third quarter of the 19th century. The sturdy stone construction indicates the plentiful supply of massive sound stone in the neighboring region.

The Western Run Turnpike Company was broken up in 1918 and the roadway sold to the Baltimore County Board of Commissioners.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hopkins, G.M. Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland. (Philadelphia, 1877).
Maryland Geological Survey. vol. 3. (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1899) p.218, 262.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5 miles ⁺

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Catharine F. Black and James T. Wollon, Jr. AIA

ORGANIZATION

For Valleys Historical District Project

DATE

November 1976

STREET & NUMBER

1114 Bellemore Rd.

TELEPHONE

323-3798

CITY OR TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Md.

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

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